

Employees honored for research support

by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — Seven members of the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Information Directorate support staff have been honored for their contributions to the directorate's research and development mission.

Receiving awards during Heritage Day ceremonies Nov. 20 were: Rose M. Jones, Alex S. Sisti Comptroller of the Year Award; Steven J. Buzinski, General Robert C. Mathis Award; John H. Pletl, Maj. Gen. Daniel C. Doubleday Award; Katherine R. Rayland, Operations and Support Excellence Award; Gail E. Marsh, Robert V. Decker Memorial Award; Ursula R. Carmola, Secretary/Clerical of the Year Award; and TSgt. Karen A. Rodney, Technical Support Award.

Jones is assigned as a cost analyst in the Comptroller Division. In that position, she performs oversight of financial business practices and provides guidance to technical division staff on financial management processes and procedures.

Jones has been a member of the laboratory staff for 22 years. She is a three-time winner of the comptroller's award, also receiving the honor in 1997 and 2000. She was the recipient of the AFRL Financial Services Civilian Award in 2000.

The Mathis Award, presented each year to a member of the directorate staff for outstanding contributions to community relations, is named for the former Rome Air Development Center (RADC) commander who retired as Air Force Vice Chief of Staff. RADC was renamed Rome Laboratory in 1990, and became part of the Air Force Research Laboratory in the fall of 1997.

Buzinski was cited for volunteering his time, talents and personal equipment to numerous charitable and civic events. Buzinski serves as a data management specialist with the Contracting Division's Acquisition Management Branch. In that position, he is responsible for contract data management, editing statements of work, technical documents and requirements. He has been a member of the laboratory staff for the past seven years.

The Doubleday Award is presented annually to a directorate staff member for outstanding management or administrative actions. It is named after the commander of RADC during two periods (1951-54 and 1961-63).

Pletl, a 22-year laboratory employee, is a senior research manager in the directorate's Information and Intelligence Exploitation Division. In that position, he is responsible for managing and technically directing research and development efforts to satisfy Department of Defense and Air Force requirements in electronic intelligence.

He was specifically cited for his expert leadership, management and administration of the Air Force Defense Cryptologic Program, the Tactical Signal Intelligence Technology Program, and the Enhanced Electronics Intelligence Processor Program.

Rayland, who joined the laboratory staff in 1987, is an illustrator in the Multimedia Services Department. She is responsible for creating presentations and artwork in support of the directorate's scientists and engineers. The Operations & Support Excellence Award is presented annually to a member of the Operations and Support Division for outstanding customer support.

Marsh is deputy of the Operational Contracting Branch. In that position, she is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the office. She also serves as a contracting officer, reviewing and approving staff work. The Decker Award is presented each year to a member of the division for an outstanding achievement that contributed to the success of the laboratory's mission.

A member of the laboratory staff for 14 years, Marsh holds an associate's degree in accounting from Mohawk Valley Community College. She earned a bachelor's degree in business management and a master's in business from the SUNY Institute of Technology at Utica/Rome. She has served in several positions with the National Contract Management Association (NCMA) Leatherstocking Chapter.

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Carmola, of Oneida, is a secretary in the Information Grid Division, and has been a member of the staff since 2000. Her award is presented annually to the outstanding secretarial/clerical member of the directorate.

She was cited for the exceptionally high standards of her initiative, leadership and quality work in establishing workload scheduling, tracking and other administrative and organizational accomplishments for the division and directorate.

Rodney is a law office manager in the Legal Office. In that capacity, she reviews and makes recommendations for settlement for all claims processed through the AFRL Rome Research Site.

Her award is given each year to a civilian (GS-7 and below) or military (E-7 and below) whose position is to provide staff or support service.

She has been assigned to Rome for the past two years. @